

AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

DATE: AUGUST 25, 2022

TO: TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION

FROM: TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING DIVISION

SUBJECT: **ITEM 6**

DISCUSSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION TO INSTALL SPEED CUSHIONS ON O'BANNON DRIVE BETWEEN DURANGO DRIVE AND BUFFALO DRIVE – WARD 2 (SEAMAN)

SITUATION

The Transportation Engineering Division of the City of Las Vegas met with residents in the Buffalo Coalition neighborhood in April 2021 to discuss various traffic concerns. Buffalo Coalition neighborhood is bounded by Charleston Boulevard to the north, Rainbow Boulevard to the east, Sahara Avenue to the south, and Durango Drive to the west. In response to the concerns, a comprehensive study reviewing traffic volumes, speeds, and crashes, was conducted, and this segment was found to be a candidate for the installation of speed cushions based on the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program criteria.

The posted speed limit on O'Bannon Drive is 25 mph. The segment of O'Bannon Drive between Durango Drive and Cimarron Drive was found to have an average speed of 35 mph, with an 85th percentile speed of 39 mph. Data collected also suggests 40% of average daily traffic is cut-through traffic.

The segment of O'Bannon Drive between Cimarron Drive and Buffalo Drive was found to have an average speed of 31 mph, with an 85th percentile speed of 36 mph. Data collected also suggest 35% of average daily traffic is cut-through traffic.

To address the excessive speeding conditions found in the study, appropriate traffic calming measures were studied and identified, and the Transportation Engineering Division recommends installation of speed cushions on O'Bannon Drive between Durango Drive and Buffalo Drive. Speed cushions consist of two or more raised vertical deflection areas placed in a roadway to slow vehicles, as most passenger vehicles cannot pass through without traveling over at least a portion of the raised area. They are similar to a traditional speed hump, however they have gaps between the raised areas that enable large emergency vehicles to pass through without delays.

Speed cushions reduce the number of vehicles that are excessively speeding by an average of 20-25% and can also reduce the volume of traffic on a road by up to 20%, leading to a decrease in the amount of cut-through traffic. They have been found to have minimal impact on emergency response times, with less than a one second delay. (Traffic Engineering Council, *A Guide to Speed Reduction Techniques*, RP-038B Washington, DC: Institute of Transportation Engineers, 2022)

The City of Las Vegas Fire Department will support this installation in accordance with City of Las Vegas Fire #6631 Traffic Calming Devices as long as they meet all required specifications set forth by the City of Las Vegas.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Engineering Division recommends installation of speed cushions on O'Bannon Drive between Durango Drive and Buffalo Drive. A test of the effectiveness of the speed cushions will be performed on O'Bannon Drive from Lisa Lane to approximately 500 feet west of Cimarron Drive, with permanent installation to be included with a future City Capital Improvement Project.